THE CHARLOTTE JOURNAL.

"PERPETUAL VIGILANCE IS THE PRICE OF LIBERTY," FOR "POWER IS ALWAYS STEALING FROM THE MANY TO THE FEW."

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WEEKLY ALMANAC.

Charlotte Journal.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 1849.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

WILMINGTON, DEC. 25, 1848. Here I am, in the city of Tar, Turpenand Lumber and Lump black. The aston to the "Junction," there we turned

on may rest assured though, this day, the Christmas of '48, is with us being spent ery pleasantly.

DECEMBER 26, 1849. To-day we had an excursion down the

Cape Fear siver, and some 14 or 16 miles

was on board, and if the beauty and grace that section, it only requires the poet to make it ourpass Byron's, -land of the cypross and vine,"

bere beauty was an every day sight, and grace a natural accompaniment.

We passed the comentic grounds of Old Fort Johnson, and the picturesque site of Saithville in Brunswick, a place resorted retory remain in force, after its acquisition to by the citizens of Wilmington as a sum. or annexation? If not, what ones shall be mer residence. Now we breast the breakers, and in a brief space we float upon the broad bosom of the wide Atlantic. The old ocean like a vast mirror where the Dei ty reflects the Universe of Stars-of runs, binds it to offer protection or security to of worlds-is spread out before us. The any other property, (here we understood gull skims the surface, or dipping its fearless breast rides upon the billow; the bald eagle some for above, circling slowly in his arrial circuit, to gaze first upon the blazing out, that those general laws, relating to Terriand then, its scarcely less dazaling reflec- torics passed by Congress, protect, or should tion in the water beneath.

Frank Johnson's fine brass band was on board, and music and the dance added their enlivening influence to the gala : about 2 tice done to the viands spread out in the sologo of the excellent steamer we were on -the" Vanderbilt"-was a flattoring critique upon their substantial worth : champaigne and tonets followed, and every thing present off as agreeably as the most cynt-cal could require. After dining, the quarlette and walts were resumed in the Saloon, and kept up until we again reached the wharves of Wilmington.

Remarks of Mr. McDowell,

ON MR. STEELE'S RESOLUTIONS.

and the' opposed to their introduction, being construed as a virtual abandonment of the En Joun.) Constitutional question; as they did, in the case of Mr. Polk's signing the Oregon Bill with the Wilmot Provisio attached. These resolutions declare in plain and

pointed language, " that Cong ces has no right to make any law, or do any act, that shall directly or by its effects make any decrimination between the States of this Union." Congress-in effect says the Constitution-shall have power to make all needful laws and regulations respecting the Territory of the United States; but the North says, to protect slavery in the Territories is not needful, while the South assorts otherwise; so the dispute turns on the place by the way in the State worthy point of utility. The Constitution settles be called a city. In coming here we the question in the 9.h astic's of the amendok the care in Raleigh and came on by Constitution of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or dispurage others to th and came on by Weldon to this place, tained by the people. Now Sir, if a citidistance by the Rail Road of 287 miles, Z'u of the North and one of the South, hich it took ue twenty four hours to tra- should emigrate to a Territory with their respective properties, and Congress should ese, but notwithstanding we spent all of throw the arm of protection over one and night on the care, the time passed very not the other, there would be an exercise of sently away: a number of the mem. power disparaging the rights which the cit re of the Lagislature, together with soval of the citizens of Wilmington who had that slaves are property, except by statute septralizies of their city, were along, and separal hilarity was the order of the trip. or London of Wilmington was the life decide it; that it cannot protect the citizen the party, and by racy ancedotes, bur. of the North in his property, acknowledged que escaches and witty converse, kept as such by his State, nor is it in its provthe South, acknowledged as such e, without disparaging or denycospitality and generosity, and with their noted by second appear to vie with their noted by sizes of one State, shall enjoy all the privilety in this respect. They are at pains to place of the cutizens of the other States." that a removal too Territory, alters in any legal sense, the relations we bear to the General Government. If Congress have the power to legislate for the Territories, cure their property against violence, it by no means follows, they can withhold this a two story house in the fort was rented as protection at pleasure, or exercise it partially us respects persons: for certainly this power of legislating must be controlled, both by the principles of equity and the spirit and letter of the Constitution. The power to protect persons and property .grows out of the right of possession, but discrimination cannot constitutionally be of the ladice present, were fair criteria of made under any clause. If any other principle be admitted, the conclusion to which we will be drawn, would be so extravagant. that reasoning back against the conclusion would overthrow the premises.

But it may be asked, what avail when the Territory under dispute forbids the introduction of elavery by local laws!' This can be answered by asking another question. Shall all the laws of a foreign Terrepealed? Undoubtedly such, as Congress has no power, under the Constitution, to pass. But under what article of the Constitution, is Congress bound to protect the s'ave owner? Just under the same that ise breaks the white crested wave, the Mr. McDowell to qualify his meaning to particular laws offecting slavery in the Territories-either to prohibit its introduction or to foster and protect its introduction ; but protect, the possession of every species of property, acknowledged as such in the States from whence the emigrant came; and that as slaves were acknowledged to be property, the slave owner claimed as o'clock, dinner was announced and the jus large a share of the protection afforded by the general provisions of a Territorial government, as the owner of any other kind of property.'-EDITOR JOURNAL.) They are and to protect one species of property as much as another. But why should the Legislature of North

Carolina, or the South, assume a position on this subject which in the event of our rights being trampled upon we may not be able or willing to maintain? What would be proper for us to do in such an event, must be determined at another time, when it has occurred; but the North should know our feelings, our views, our position, that they may be induced to pause, before their acts shall force us to continue longer in the press his views before the vote on the a-

mendment offered by the gentleman from with all their attendant train of horrors .- spring -a dam and race constructed; but intersected in every direction by small San Francisco, with no crew on board .-

INTERESTING DESPATCH FROM CALI. FORNIA.

Among the documents received by the

Secretary of War, and communicated with the President's Message, is the following letter from Col. Mason, the Military Commandant of California, who presents the fullest description we have seen of the gold placers" of that region.

[No 37] HEADQUARTERS 10TH MILITARY DEPT. Monterey, Cultifornia, August 17, 1848. Ein:-I have the honor to inform you that, accompanied by Lieut, W. T. Sherman, 3 lartiflury, A. A. A. General, I start. ed, on the 12th of June last to make a tour through the northern part of California .-My principal purpose, however, was to visit the newly discovered gold "placer" in the valley of the Sicramento. I had proceeded about forty miles, when I was overtaken by an express, bringing me intelligence of the arrival at Montercy of the United States Ship Southampten, with important etters from Commodore Shubrick and Lieut. Col. Burton. I returned at once to Monterey and despatched what business was most important, and on the 17th resumed my journey. We reached San Francisco on the 20 h, and found that all, or nearly all, its male inhabitants had gone to the mines. The to an which a few months before was so busy and thriving, was then alwost deserted. On the evening of the 24th. the horses of the escort were crossed to Souvoleto in a launeh, and on the following day we resumed the journey by way of Bodega and Sonoma to Sutter's fort where we arrived on the morning of the 21 of July. Along the whole route, mills were idle, fields of wheat were open to cattle and horses, houses vacant, and farms going to maste. At Suntar's there was more life and business. Launches were discharging Weber's creek) at the washings of Sunol coming winter. The most mod hauling goods to the fort, where already were established several stores, a hotel, &c. Capt. Sutter had only two mechanics in his employ (a wagon maker and a black-smith.) to whom he was then paying ten dollars a to protect the lives of the citizens and se- day. Merchants pay him a monthly rent of \$100 per room; and whilst I was there,

a hotel for \$500 a month.

At the urgent solicitation of many gen tlemen, I delayed there to participate in the first public celebration of our national anniversary at that fort : but on the 5th resumed the journey, and proceeded 25 miles up the American fork to a point on it, now known as the Lower Mines, or Mormon Diggings. The hill sides were thickly strewn with canvass tents and brush arbors a store was erected, and several boarding shanties in operation. The day was intensively hot, yet about 200 men were at work in the full glare of the sun, washing for gold-some with tin pane, some with close woven Indian baskets, but the greater part had a rude machine, known as the cradle. This is on rockers, six or eight feet long, open at the foot, and at the head has a coarse grate or seive; the bottom is rounded with small cleets nailed across .-Four men are required to work this machine; one digs the ground in a bank close by the stream; another carries it to the cradle; a third gives a violent rocking motion to the machine; whilst a fourth dashes on water from the stream itself. The serve keeps the coarse stones from entering the cradle, the current of water washes off the earthy matter, and the gravel is gradually carried out at the foot of the machine, leaving the gold mixed with a fine black sand above the first cleets. The sand and gold mixed together are drawn off through augur holes into a pan below, are dried in the sun, and afterwards separated by blowing off the sand. A party of four men thus employed at the lower mines, averaged one hundred dollars a day. The Indians, and those who have nothing but pans or willow baskets, gradually wash out the earth and separate the gravel by hand, leaving nothing but the gold mixed with sand, which is separated in the manner before described. The gold in the lower mines is in fine scales, of which I send several

As we ascended the south branch of the American Fork, the country became more broken and mountainous, and at the saw mill, 25 miles above the lower washings, or 50 miles from Sutter's, the hills rise to about 1000 feet above the level of the Sacramento plain. Here a species of pine occurs, which led to the discovery of the breech cloth was, can now afford to buy gold. Captain Sutter, feeling the great want the most gaudy dresses. Mr. McDowell said, he would like to ex- which verges a dreary desert, where anof lumber, contracted with a Mr. Marshall archy and civil war hold their terrific sway, erected in the course of the past winter and

shall directly or by its effects, make any course, diverting our trade into another current so as to wash it wider and deeper. discrimination between the States of this channel-England-would stop their cot. He flected his purpose, and a large bed of Union. The design of these resolutions, is ton mills, throw out of employment a hun to shadow forth in unequivocal terms the position of North Carolina for moral effect upon the action of Congress. The custom of farmers. Yes, all that is wanted, is a firm, observed some glittering particles at its property of the custom of discussing national politics in State Legis-latures, had its origin at an early day. A voice from the O.d Dominion, where weeks are still consumed debating national affairs, force her to yield. (Such were the views once told with power, not only upon the ac- that induced him to believe, that now the it secret until a certain grist-mill of Sutter' tion of Congress, but upon most of the other secolutions were introduced they should was finished. It, however, got out, and er States. Tho' at this day, the voice of have prompt and decided action upon them; spread like magic. Remarkable success sny one State, has but little effect, and he did not fear disunion by acting on this attended the labors of the first explorers, these resolutions may full in their design, subject; the North was too much afraid of and in a few weeks hundreds of men were and the opposed to their introduction, being the dreadfur consequences, to force upon drawn thither. At the time of my visit, but willing to trust to the patriotism of our representatives—both Whigs and Democrats

resentatives—both Whigs and Democrats

ritories which would smount to a denial of covery, it was estimated that upwards of

on this great question, yet as these res

olutions have been introduced, I am unwil
are firm—we understood Mr. McDowell to there is a fine deposit or bank of gravel ling sir, to reject them, lest the fact may be conclude pretty much in this language. - which the people respect as the property of the 20th day of July. In consequence of any combination of affairs try a man's fi-Capt. Sutter, although he pre ends to no these, I determined to return to Monterey, delity more than this? and I really think right to it, and would be perfectly satisfied and accordingly arrived here on the 17th some extraordinary mark of favor should with the simple promise of a pre caption, of July. Before leaving Sutter's I satisbe given to those soldiers who remain faithen account of the mill which be had built fied myself that gold existed in the bed of ful to their flag throughout this tempting there at considerable cost. Mr. Marshall and below him; that they used the same also, that it had been found in the Cosum-clothing and subsistence are so exorbitant machines as at the lower washings, and that mes to the south of the American fork.— and fabor so high, that to hire a cook or their success was about the same-ranging. In each of these streams the gold is found servant has become an impossibility, save from one to three ounces of gold per man daily. This gold, too, is in scales a little coarser than those of the lower mines .-From the mill Mr. Marshall guided me up to the mountain on the opposite or north bank of the south fork, where, in the bed of small treams or ravines, now dry, a great deal of coarse gold has been found. I there saw several parties at work, all of whom were do that time his Indiana had used simply closely wish to prevent desertions here on the part ing very well; a great many specimens were shown me, some as heavy as four or five (which I saw) were about \$16,000 worth of officers, their pay must be increased ounces in weight, and I send three pieces gold. He showed me the proceeds of his inaterially.

Soldiers, both of the volunteer and reg-You will perceive that some of the specimens accompanying this, hold mechanically pieces of quartz; that the surface is rough, and evidently moulded in the crevice of a rock. This gold cannot have been carried far by water, but must have remained where it was first deposited from the rock n its matrix, but in every instance they said they had not; but that the gold was invariably mixed with washed gravel, or small gullies or ravines that occur on that nountainous region.

played, whom they pay in Merchandise .- tain, from men acquainted with the subject. They are getting gold of a character simiar to that found in the main fork, and doubt send you a specimen, presented by this we proceeded up the stream about 8 miles, gold district, with very few exceptions of where we found great many people and grants made some years ago by the Mexiwhere we found great many people and Indians-some engaged in the bed of the stream, and others in the small side valleys that put into it. These latter are exceed ingly rich, and two ounces were considered

n ordinary yield for a day's work. yards long by 4 feet wide and 2 or 3 feet deep, was pointed out to me as the one and the small scattered force at my comwhere two men-William Daly and Perry McCoon-had, a short time before, obtain permit all to work freely, unless broils and During these twenty days he was travelling ed \$17,000 worth of gold. Capt. Weber crimes should call for interference. I was ten or eleven days, leaving but a week, in informed me that he knew that these two surprised to learn that crime of any kind which he made a sum of money greater men had employed four white men and about a hundred Indians, and that, at the end of one week's work, they paid off their district. All live in tents, in bush arbors. party, and had left \$10,000 worth of this or in the open air; and men have frequentgold. Another small ravine was shown me, ly about their persons thousands of dollars rom which had been taken upwards of \$12,000 worth of gold. Hundreds of sim- surprise that so peaceful and quiet a state when at the mines, I was informed by an ilar ravines to all appearances, are as yet untouched. I could not have credited these reports had I not seen, in the abundance of the precious metal, evidence of their truth. Mr. Netligh, an agent of Com. Stockton, had been at work about three weeks in the neighborhood, and showed me in bags and bottles over \$2,000 worth of gold; and Mr. Lyman, a gentleman of education and worthy of every credit, said he had been engaged with four others, with a machine, on the American fork, just below Setter's mill : that they worked eight days, and that his share was at the rate of \$50 a day; but hearing that others were doing better at Weber's place, they had removed there, and were then on the point of resuming operations. I might tell of hundreds of similar instances; but to illustrate how plentiful the gold was in the pockets of common laborers, I will mention a simple occurrence which took place in my presence when I was at Weber's store. This store was nohe had exposed for sale, goods and groceries suited to his customers. A man came up, picked up a box of Seidletz powders, and asked its price. Capt. Weber told him it was not for sale. The man offered an ounce of gold, but Capt. Weber told him it only cost 50 cents, and he did not wish to sell it. The man then offered an ounce and a half, when Capt. Weber HAD to take it. The prices of all things are high, and yet Indians, who before hardly knew what a

Orange, was taken. 'I am opposed, Mr. Speaker, to having any such close attached to these resolutions, plain and pointed as they are, that Congress has no right to make any laws or do any set whatever, that a change of our commercial intersected in every direction by small streams or ravines, which contain more or when the water was let on the wheel, the streams or ravines, which contain more or designed to these resolutions, plain and pointed as they are, that Congress has no right to make any laws or do any set whatever, that a change of our commercial intersected in every direction by small streams or ravines, which contain more or distinct the water was let on the wheel, the streams or ravines, which contain more or designed to these resolutions, plain and pointed as dollars and cents. They can readily permit the water to escape with sufficient rapidity. Mr. Marshall, to save labor, let the water directly into the race with a strong do not consider that a serious impression has four from the post of Sonoma, twenty-four from the considerations of tail-race was found to be too narrow to permit the water to escape with sufficient rapidity. Mr. Marshall, to save labor, let the water directly into the race with a strong do not consider that a serious impression has four from the post of Sonoma, twenty-four from Monterey. For a few as seriously to depreciate its value.

On the 5th of July I returned to the low. steps adopted to meet the contingency. er mines, and on the following day to Sutter's, where on the 10th I was making pre and punish deserters, but I believe no time were to sail with the Warren on or before than fifteen or twenty dollars a day. Could fied myself that gold existed in the bed of ful to their flag throughout this tempting the Feather river, in the Yubsh and Bear, crisis. No officer can now live in Caliwas living near the mill, and informed him and in many of the small streams that he fornia on his pay, money has so little valthat many persons were employed above between the latter and the American fork; ue; the prices of necessary articles of in small scales, whereas in the intervening to those who are earning from thirty to fif-

merican fork, employs about 50 Indians on acter it has assumed as a mining country, the north fork, not far from its junction with prices of labor will always be high, and the main stream. He had been engaged will hold out temptations to desert. I about five weeks when I saw him, and up to therefore have to report if the Government woven willow baskets. His nett proceeds of men, and to secure zeal on the part of pois of clean-washed gold.

crossed to a small stream emptying into the each man is now able to pay a large price,

was, that upwards of four thousand men can authorities, is on land belonging to the United States. It was a matter of serious reflection with me, how I could secure A small gutter not more than a hundred upon considering the large extent of country, the character of the people engaged, mand, I resolved not to interfere, but to and working during that time \$1,500 .was very unfrequent, and that no thefts or worth of gold, and it was to me a matter of things should continue to exist.

Conflicting claims to particular spots of ground may cause collisious, but they will fraternity. Nearly all the Mormons are be rare, as the extent of country is so great, leaving California, to go to the Salt Lake and gold so abundant, that for the present and this they surely would not do, unless there is room and enough for them all.— they were sure of finding gold there in the Still the government is entitled to rents for this land, and immediate steps should be Sacramento. devised to collect them, for the longer it is delayed the more difficult is will become. San Fernando, has long been known, but One plan I would suggest is, to send out has been but little wrought, for want of from the United States surveyors with high water. This is in a spur that puts off from salaries, bound to serve specified periods.

ter's Fort, with power to grant licenses to There is, therefore, every reason to bework a spot of ground-say one hundred lieve, that in the intervening spaces of five yards square-for one year, at a rent of hundred miles (entirely unexplored) there from 100 to 1,000 dollars, at his discretion; must be many hidden and rich deposites, the surveyors to measure the ground, and The "placer gold is now substituted as place the rentor in possession.

before engaged in cultivating their small the amount of commerce at San Francisco patches of ground, and guarding their herds very much, and it will continue to increase. of cattle and horses, have all gone to the mines, or are on their way thither. Labor- tablished at some eligible point of the bay ers of every trade have left their work of San Francisco; and that machinery, and benches, and tradeemen their shops. Sailors all the necessary apparatus and workson. desert their ships as soon as they arrive on be sent out by sea. The country on either side of Weber's to sea with hardly enough hands to furl a to secure their faithful services, else the

do not consider that a serious impression has four from that of San Francisco, and been made upon the whole. Every day twenty-four from Monterey. For a few was developing new and richer deposites; days the evil appeared so threatening that and the only impression seemed to be, that grent danger existed that the garrisons the metal would be found in such abundance would leave in a body; and I refer you to my orders of the 25th of July, to show the

NUMBER 12.

I shall spare no excitions to apprehend parations for a visit to the Feather, Yubah, in the history of our country has presenand Bear rivers, when I received a letter ted such temptations to desert as now ex-from Commander A. R. Long, U. States ist in California. The danger of appre-Navy, who had just arrived at San Francis | hension is small, and the prospect of highco from Mazatlan, with a crew for the sloop or wages certain; pay and bounties are of war Warren, with orders to take that trifles, as laboring men at the mines can vessel to the squadron at La Poz. Captain now earn in one day more than double a Long wrote to me that the Mexican Con soldier's pay and allowances for a month. gress had adjourned without ratifying the and even the pay of a lieutenant or captain treaty of peace; that he had letters for me cannot hire a servant. A carpenter of from Commodore Jones, and that his orders mechanic would not listen to an offer of less mountains it occurs in coarser lumps.

Mr. Sinclair, whose rancho is 3 miles and last forever. Yet from the geographical boxe Sutter's, on the north side of the A-cal position of California, and the new char-

ular service, discharged in this country, The principal store at Sutter's Fork, that should be permitted at once to locate their of Brannan & Co., had received to payment land warrants on the gold district. Mafor goods \$36,000 (worth of this gold) from my private letters have gone to the United the 1st of May to the 16th of July. Large States, giving accounts of the vast quanquantities of goods were duity sent forward tity of gold recently discovered, and it to the mines, as the Indians, heretofore so may be a matter of surprise why I have that once bound it. I inquired of many poor and degraded, have suddenly become made no report on this subject at an earlier people if they had encountered the metal consumers of the luxuries of life. I be. fore mentioned that the greater part of the myself to believe the reports that I heard farmers and rancheros had abandoned their of the wealth of the gold district until I fields to go to the mines. This is not the case visited it myself. I have no hesitation now lodged in the crevices of other rocks. All with Captain Sutter, who was carefully in saying that there is more gold in the bore testimony that they had found gold in gathering his wheat, estimated at 40,000 country drained by the Sacramento and San greater or less quantities in the numerous bushels. Flour is already worth at Sutter's, Joaquin rivers than will pay the cost of the \$36 a barrel, and soon will be \$50. Un. present war with Mexico a hundred times less large quantities of breadstuff reach the over. No capital is required to obtain this On the 7th of July 1 left the mill, and country, much suffering will occur; but as gold, as the laboring men wants nothing but his pick and shovel, and tin pan, with American, three or four miles from the saw. it is believed the merchants will bring from which to dig and wash the gravel; and mill. I struck this stream (now known as Chili and Oregon a plentiful supply for the many frequently pick gold out of the crevices of rocks with their butcher knives,

Mr. Dye, a gentleman residing in Monterey, and worthy of every credit, has just were working in the gold district, of whom returned from Feather river. He tells me ess in sufficient quantities to satisfy them. more than one half were Indiane; and that the company to which he belonged, from \$30,000 to \$50,000 worth of gold, if worked seven weeks and two days, with an company, of their gold. From this point, not more, was daily obtained. The entire average of fifty Indians, (washers,) and that their gross product was 273 pounds of gold. His share (one seventh,) after pay-ing all expenses is about 37 pounds, which he brought with him and exhibited in Monterey. I see no laboring man from the to the government certain rents or fees for mines who does not show his two, three, the privilege of procuring this gold; but or four pounds of gold. A soldier of the artillery company returned here a few days ago from the mines, having been absent on furlough twenty days. He made by trading than he receives in pay, clothes, and rations robberies had been committed in the gold during a whole enlistment of five years. These statements appear incredible, but

Gold is also believed to exist on the eastern slope of the Sierra Nevada: and intelligent Mormon that it had been found near the Geat Salt Lake by some of his same abundance as they now do on the

The gold " placer " near the mission of the Sierra Nevada ; (see Frement's map,) A superintendent to be appointed at Sut. the same in which the present mine occurs. the currency of this country; in trade it A better plan however, will be to have passed freely at 816 per ounce ; as an arthe district surveyed and sold at public auc. ticle of commerce its value is not yet fixtion to the highest bidder, in small parcels, ed. The only purchase I made was of the say from 20 to 40 acres. In either case, specimen No. 7, which I got of Mr. Neligh there will be many intruders, whom for at 813 the ounce. This is about the preyears it will be almost impossible to exclude. sent cash value in the country, although it The discovery of these vast deposites of has been sold for less. The great demand gold has entirely changed the character of for goods and provisions made by this sudthe people of Upper California. Its people, den development of wealth, has increased

I would recommend that a mint be esthe coast; and several vessels have gone be bound by high wages, and even bonds